

offences under the Employees' Provident Fund Act and compulsory minimum imprisonment for defaulters? If his attention has been drawn to this, what action has the Government taken or is taking?

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI: On the first point about arrears, it is true that the arrears have been given as Rs. 4 crores in the report. It may be something more. But the total collection has been Rs. 1,000 crores. Out of a total collection of Rs. 1,000 crores, Rs. 4 crores or Rs. 6 crores is the arrears. So we cannot say that the performance is bad. But still I would attach importance to those few workers who are affected by these arrears of Rs. 4 crores. To those who have not got their provident fund, it is 100 per cent. Therefore, I am in full agreement with the hon. Member that stringent measures should be provided for in the Provident Fund Act. We have discussed this very question. There are certain proposals whereby provisions are going to be made more stringent and imprisonment also will

be provided for. That is under consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

**ASSISTANCE FOR MINOR IRRIGATION
PROGRAMME OF U.P.**

***356. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the assistance given to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for minor irrigation during the last five years year-wise;

(b) the amount of assistance asked for by Uttar Pradesh Government during the above period; and

(c) the amount sanctioned for this purpose during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) to (c) A Statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

The year-wise assistance asked for *vis-a-vis* released to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for Minor Irrigation Programme is as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Assistance claimed by the State			Assistance released to the State		
	Loan	Grant	Total	Loan	Grant	Total
1952-53	762.67	147.42	910.09	761.16	173.34	834.50
1953-54	733.70	160.83	894.53	739.69	176.00	915.69
1954-55	1334.40	26.89	1411.29	1300.22	29.02	1329.24
1955-56	1362.14	107.01	1469.15	1478.46	65.71	1544.17
1956-57	2194.27	217.48	2411.75	2194.84	217.19	2412.03

NOTE.—(1) Central assistance sanctioned upto 1963-64 is for the Combined Head "Agricultural Production including Minor Irrigation".

(2) Central assistance sanctioned during 1965-66 and 1966-67 is provisional.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether he has made any enquiry or assessment as to the exact amount of the assistance that has been spent by the Government of Uttar Pradesh out of the released amount?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, normally only after the audits are made,

that figure will be available. At the moment this figure will not be available. Normally these are meant for the item of expenditure for which assistance was sanctioned.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Sir, according to this statement the amount of

assistance is released is almost as required by the State. Now the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh had been drought-affected and almost everybody in the Government has expressed sympathetic feelings about the condition of the eastern districts of U.P. May I know from the hon. Minister what exactly is the amount received by these districts and why the poverty of the eastern districts of U.P. has not been cared for? After all food is a problem of the Centre and it is, therefore, all the more necessary that he should be in a position to tell us as to what positive steps are being taken to see that they do not remain drought-affected areas any more.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, the implementation of programmes like minor irrigation is within the jurisdiction of the State Government, and, they are to see which district should be given priority, where the programme should be emphasised and so on. I do not think the Centre has much to do with that. The problem is well known.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: On a point of order, Sir. The Minister has said that the Centre is not responsible for what is happening in U.P. His information appears to be out of date. Now the Centre is very much responsible.

PROF. SATYAVRATA SIDDHANTA-LANKAR: Is it not a fact that in most of the districts where irrigation schemes have been sanctioned, revenue is being collected but water is not given?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: May I remove this impression by saying that the minor irrigation programme, especially in U.P. during the last few years has gained such a momentum that never before in the history of our country was the minor irrigation activity carried on with such momentum? In a number of States in India this activity is getting momentum.

SHRI TRILOKI SINGH: Sir, in view of the fact that under the Essential Commodities Act, food production has been made the concern of the Union Government, and, that 65 per cent. of the agricultural land in U.P. is unirrigated, and

also in view of the fact that the only way to irrigate is through minor irrigation works, will the hon. Minister tell this House if there are any special schemes, in view of the food shortage, to bring more and more of non-irrigated area under irrigation in the near future?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, we have been laying adequate emphasis on the implementation of minor irrigation programmes, and as I was explaining, especially in U.P. this programme is getting on very well. And as the figures which have been given in the statement would show, almost 100 per cent. assistance was provided by the Centre up to 1966-67. Only from then onwards, the pattern of assistance has changed. Now it would be 60 per cent. loan, 15 per cent. grant and 25 per cent. to be provided by the State Government. Then as far as U.P. is concerned, we have done a special thing. For the implementation of their programmes we have sanctioned about Rs. 1 crore for importing rigs of a special type which are not manufactured in the country, for carrying out tubewell programmes in U.P.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: It is admitted on all hands that U.P. is lagging behind the rest of the country in matters of planning, particularly in matters of irrigation schemes. In U.P. there is no major dam except Ramganga which is also likely to make another 10 years. Will the Government take extra care to see that tubewells and other kinds of wells are given preference so that it is brought on a par with the rest of the country?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, may I give a little information to elicit this point how the programme is getting on well? Last year alone there 84,000 masonry wells were constructed, boring in wells was 68,000, then Persian wheels 68,000, pumping-sets 20,000 and private tube-wells 24,000. Though not in U.P. alone but all over the country there is much which can be done in regard to minor irrigation, in U.P. especially the underground water resources are so rich that the matter is engaging the attention of the State Government as well as the Centre.